

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 169489  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CPR-02 SY-05 SS-15 SP-02  
NSCE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00  
SSO-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 INRE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:SLH

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

-----024145 052023Z /64

O 052009Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PDIP, SY, US

SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT SYRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

1. CONSULAR SECTION OF SYRIAN EMBASSY WAS PARTIALLY RAN-  
SACKED BY AS YET UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS AFTERNOON JULY 5.  
GROUP APPARENTLY ENTERED PUBLIC AREA OF EMBASSY IN GUISE OF  
VISA APPLICANTS AND BEGAN DESTROYING FILES, PICTURES AND  
FURNITURE IN CONSULAR AREA. THERE WERE NO RPT NO INJURIES  
AMONG EMBASSY STAFF, ACCORDING TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR.  
POLICE HAVE MADE ELEVEN ARRESTS AND, WITH REINFORCEMENTS  
ON SITE, ARE HOLDING DEMONSTRATORS MINIMUM OF 500 FEET FROM  
CHANCERY.

2. IN ADDITION TO CHANCERY, SY IS ARRANGING UNIFORMED PRO-  
TECTION FOR AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND SYRIAN MISSION IN  
NEW YORK. AMBASSADOR KABBANI TOLD ARN THAT SITUATION UNDER  
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CONTROL AT MOMENT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS IS  
CALLING HIM TO EXPRESS OUR REGRETS AT THIS MOST UNFORTUNATE  
INCIDENT.

3. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS WHEN AVAILABLE. WE HAVE  
NO CONFIRMED WORD REGARDING IDENTITY OF ATTACKERS. SENTI-  
MENT IS, OF COURSE, RUNNING HIGH IN SOME CIRCLES OF

AMERICAN LEBANESE COMMUNITY IN LIGHT OF FIGHTING IN  
BEIRUT.

4. SUGGEST YOU INFORM APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIALS,  
EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND REGRETS AND ASSURE THEM THAT WE ARE  
TAKING APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES. WE WILL  
OF COURSE, PROVIDE THEM WITH FURTHER DETAILS WHEN AVAIL-  
ABLE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, EMBASSIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE169489  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WNHOWELL:SLH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780276-0272  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 72fffb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2112824  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INCIDENT AT SYRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINS, PDIP, SY, US  
**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbci://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/72fffb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014